

IN THE PROCEEDINGS of the Biological Society of Washington for May 18, 1892, Mr. F. V. Coville describes, in advance of the full report of the collections of the Death's Valley expedition, several new species from that interesting region.

THE REPORT of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Trinidad for 1890 has been distributed. The report shows the work of the gardens in economic and scientific lines. Much attention is being given to the encouragement of the growing of fruits and fiber plants in the island. The illustrations are Messrs. Sprague's well-known "ink-photos" which almost equal the American "half-tone." The form of the report would be much improved by a change from folio to octavo. The Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Hart, working no doubt under many difficulties, is evidently active in promoting the interests of the garden.

OPEN LETTERS.

A botanical congress and nomenclature.

At a meeting of the Botanical Club of Washington, held April 23, 1892, a committee was appointed to consider and report upon the questions of botanical congress and nomenclature. At a special meeting called May 7, this committee presented the following report which was unanimously adopted by the club:

"Your committee, appointed to consider the questions of a botanical congress and botanical nomenclature, held a meeting on the second of May and prepared the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That, while favoring the final settlement of disputed questions by means of an international congress, we do not regard the present as an opportune time, but we recommend the reference of the question of plant nomenclature first to a representative body of American botanists.

"We suggest the consideration, by such body, of the following questions, among others: the law of priority; an initial date for genera; an initial date for species; the principle once a synonym always a synonym; what constitutes publication; the form of tribal and ordinal names; the method of citing authorities; capitalization.

"We recognize the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S. as a representative body of American botanists and commend to that body for discussion and disposal the subject of nomenclature as set forth in these resolutions.

"Respectfully submitted,

LESTER F. WARD, GEO. VASEY, F. H. KNOWLTON, B. T. GALLOWAY, ERWIN F. SMITH, GEO. B. SUDWORTH, FREDERICK V. COVILLE. Committee."

It was voted that a copy of these resolutions be communicated to the BOTANICAL GAZETTE, *Torrey Botanical Club, Garden and Forest and Science.*—L. H. DEWEY, SEC'Y, *Washington, D. C.*

¹ *Berichte der deutschen botanischen Gesellschaft*, x. 27.